

28 June 1976

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

SUBJECT: National Intelligence Steering Group

STAT 1. At a meeting on 18 June 1976, Mr. Lehman (D/DCI/NI), Mr. Saunders (INR), [REDACTED] (DIA), Mr. Walsh (DDI), and Mr. Zellmer (DDS&T) agreed as follows on the responsibilities, functioning, and composition of the steering group.

a. Responsibilities. The steering group will have cognizance over all national intelligence, other than current intelligence, that is produced by more than one agency of the US Government. The group will not review individual intelligence products before they are published. More specifically:

i. National Intelligence Estimates. Once the Director of Central Intelligence has authorized a specific estimate, the appropriate NIO will supervise the preparation of the estimate's terms of reference and circulate these to the members of the Steering Group. Any member of the Group who perceives serious problems in meeting the resource demands of the terms of reference or who wants substantive changes in them will seek to resolve his problem, in the first instance, by discussion with the D/DCI/NI, and failing this, by submitting the conflict to the Steering Group. A member of the

Group may sometimes wish to consult before one of his principals makes a formal request to the DCI for an estimate, with a view to advising the requester whether his request can be met and in what form.

ii. Interagency National Production Below the NIE Level. Requests for these products normally will similarly be reviewed by the members of the Group. The NIO's proposal for handling such requests will be approved by D/DCI/NI only after all members of the Group have been notified and have been given time to comment if they wish. In fast-moving situations, however, the D/DCI/NI may give provisional approval immediately.

iii. Monitoring the National and Departmental Intelligence Workload. Steering Group members will notify the group's executive secretary of all projects they undertake that involve research and of the completion or suspension of these projects. The DCI may authorize exceptions relating to especially sensitive operationally-oriented projects. Notification of a departmental project does not constitute a commitment to complete any work begun. All Group members may ask the executive secretary for information on work reported in progress by any member. (This provision is experimental; there may be better ways.)

iv. Other. The Steering Group will shoulder whatever other responsibilities the DCI may assign it or are agreed upon by the Group's members.

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b. Functioning.

i. The Steering Group will not have a regular schedule of meetings, but rather will convene at the request of any one of its members. Whenever practical, consultation among Group members will occur by telephone. Paperwork will be kept to a minimum.

ii. NIOs will at all times be free to negotiate informally with regard to prospective projects, but major work on a project will not start until Steering Group approval has been obtained. Common sense will apply to minor papers, and these procedures will not be permitted to hold up time-sensitive production.

c. Membership. Members of the Steering Group will be the D/DCI/NI, Chairman, and the designated representatives of DIA, INR, and CIA (DDI and DDS&T will concert as to CIA representation). Representatives of other government agencies may be invited to participate in specific activities of the Group at the invitation of the chairman.



Richard Lehman  
Deputy to the DCI for National Intelligence

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